

**IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Michael C. Stewart, et al.  
APPLICATION NO.: 10/054,477  
FILING DATE: January 18, 2002  
TITLE: Vessel Harvesting Apparatus and Method  
EXAMINER: Matthew John Kasztejna  
GROUP ART UNIT: 3739  
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 80121-05730

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**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**  
**UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114**

Sir:

Responsive to the final Office Action dated June 15, 2006 received in the patent application identified above, Applicants request continued examination of the claims as amended herein.